



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420

October 25, 2019

In Reply Refer To: 001B
FOIA Request: 19-10729-F

Jasper Craven
MuckRock News
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
iclarkcraven@gmail.com; 79011-89650597@requests.muckrock.com

Dear Mr. Craven,

This is the Initial Agency Decision (IAD) from Office of the Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (OSVA) to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received August 14, 2019, and assigned FOIA tracking number **19-10729-F**. You requested, in your words: "all emails between Bob Carey (Bob.Carey@Empire-Capitol.com) and the following government staffers between Jan. 1, 2019 and present day: Peter O'Rourke, Robert Wilkie, Jennifer Korn, Drew Trojanowski, Casin Spero, Darin Selnick, Curt Cashour, David Shulkin, Scott Blackburn, Thomas Bowman, Brooks Tucker and Jonathan Ulyot. Keywords should include, but are not limited to, "partnership" "accountability," "choice," "congress," "CVA," "White House," "Jennifer," "caregiver," "comments," and "mission."

As a reminder, the OCLA (**19-10730-F**), OPIA (**19-10731-F**), and OIT (**19-10732-F**) FOIA offices will process your FOIA request for records located within their own respective FOIA offices.

IAD & Reasonable Search Dated 9/12/19 & 10/25/19

On September 12, 2019, our search cut-off date, OSVA requested that the VA IT office gather and search for the responsive records within the email boxes of Peter O'Rourke, Robert Wilkie, Casin Spero, Darin Selnick, David Shulkin, Scott Blackburn, and Thomas Bowman. On September 20, 2019, the VA IT office provided responsive records, with the OSVA FOIA Officer to conduct secondary searches.

On October 25, 2019, the OSVA FOIA Officer conducted a secondary search. The OSVA FOIA Officer searched through those aforementioned emailboxes for any email communication with Bob.Carey@Empire-Capitol.com. This search yielded two (2) responsive pages. After reviewing the two (2) pages, OSVA releases them in full without any redactions.

FOIA Mediation

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. Under the provisions of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, the following contact information is provided to assist FOIA requesters in resolving disputes:

VA Central Office FOIA Public Liaison:

Name: John Buck

Email Address: vacofoiaservice@va.gov

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)

Email Address: ogis@nara.gov

Fax: 202-741-5769

Mailing address:

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road

College Park, MD 20740-6001

FOIA Appeal

This concludes OSVA's IAD to FOIA request **19-10729-F**. Please be advised that should you desire to do so, you may appeal the determination made in this response to:

Office of General Counsel (024)

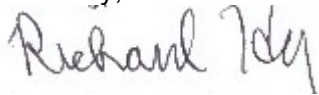
Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20420

If you should choose to file an appeal, please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly indicate the basis for your disagreement with the determination set forth in this response. Please be advised that in accordance with VA's implementing FOIA regulations at 38 C.F.R. § 1.559, your appeal must be postmarked no later than ninety (90) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard Ha".

Richard Ha, JD, CIPP/G
OSVA FOIA Officer

Attachment – two (2) unredacted pages